



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 December 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- ABC News reports that the Department of Energy may jeopardize the security of its nuclear weapons and energy technology and lose millions of dollars if it does not improve its cyber security, according to a recent Inspector General's report. (See item [9](#))
- According to Reuters, an American Airlines Boeing 737 carrying more than 150 passengers and crew overshot the runway while landing in torrential rain in Jamaica Tuesday, cracking open its fuselage and halting just short of the Caribbean sea. Ninety people were taken to local hospitals, where they were treated for broken bones, cuts, and bruises, as well as shock. (See item [13](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 23, United Press International* – (Alaska) **Prudhoe Bay, Alaska: New oil pipeline leak discovered.** Yet another leak of the Alaska oil pipeline has been located after an inspector located a spill during a routine inspection. And while 17,000 square

feet of area had been sprayed with oil, it was considered to be a small leak compared to what was found just weeks ago, when officials say they have found the source of what is believed to be one of the biggest ever leaks of crude oil from the pipeline on the North Slope of Alaska. The on-scene coordinator for the state Department of Environment Conservation said the pipeline breach was the biggest he has ever seen, and was indicative of the pressure the pipeline was under when it broke, the Anchorage Daily News reported Tuesday. The jagged 24-inch gash in a pipeline began pouring oil and water November 29. Workers found the source of the leak Monday after crews cleaned away contaminated snow, ice, and spilled crude that had been contaminating the area. Officials say they think huge plugs of ice formed inside the pipe, causing British Petroleum (Alaska) Inc. to halt operations a few weeks ago. Pressure supposedly built up causing the pipeline to rupture, the newspaper reported. The pipeline is no longer leaking, though workers estimate the burst pipeline spilled roughly 46,000 gallons of crude oil and water.

Source: http://www.postchronicle.com/news/breakingnews/article_212274941.shtml

2. *December 22, Business First of Louisville* – (Indiana) **Duke reaches settlement on New Albany plant.** Duke Energy has reached a settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Justice and others on a lawsuit involving one of its power plants in Southern Indiana. As part of the settlement, the utility company said Tuesday in a news release, it can continue to operate its 560-megawatt Gallagher Station in New Albany and has the option to either convert two of the units from coal to natural gas or retire the units. Duke said in the release that it expects to convert the units to gas but that no final decision has to be made until January 1, 2012. The company also said it will install additional pollution controls on the station's other two units and switch to using lower sulfur fuel at the plant. The company estimates the cost to convert the units to gas and install additional pollution controls will be about \$80 million.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/stories/2009/12/21/daily20.html>

3. *December 22, WSAW 7 Wausau* – (Wisconsin) **25,000 gallons of gasoline leak into Kronenwetter ground.** Health officials say there is no public health risk after 25,000 gallons of gasoline leaked from a failed pipe into the ground beneath the Magellan Pipeline Company in Kronenwetter earlier this month. The broken line has since been repaired, and the company is investigating why the leak occurred. Some gasoline has been removed, but Magellan is working with the Department of Natural Resources to determine the best way to recover the remaining gas that is mixed with groundwater and soil.

Source: <http://www.wsaw.com/home/headlines/79918822.html>

4. *December 21, Associated Press* – (Virginia; West Virginia) **Power company taps reinforcements in W.Va., Va.** Appalachian Power has hired more than 1,300 contractors from 13 states to help its crews restore power to more than 117,000 customers in Virginia and West Virginia. Some customers were still without electricity Monday night after a weekend storm dumped more than a foot of snow across the East Coast. As of 6:30 p.m. Monday, Appalachian Power reported nearly 83,000 outages in West Virginia and about 34,000 in Virginia. The company hopes to restore power to

most customers early in the week, but some may be out until Friday. An Appalachian Power spokesman blamed damaged transmission lines in hard-to-reach areas and widespread damage. Additionally, Allegheny Energy reported 17,642 outages late Monday. It expected to restore electricity to all customers by midnight Wednesday.

Source: <http://wjz.com/wireapnewsva/Reinforcements.to.help.2.1383030.html>

For another story, see item [43](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *December 23, Kansas City Daily Herald* – (Missouri) **No injuries in Kane Co. train derailment.** An early morning train derailment near Plank Road in Burlington Tuesday closed some streets and rail crossings for most of the day, but no injuries or evacuations were needed. A Kane County Sheriff's lieutenant said three cars of a Canadian National Railway cargo train came off the tracks about 3 a.m. An investigation of the cause is under way, but foul play is not suspected. The three derailed carrying tanks of nonflammable refrigerated carbon dioxide left the rails as the train switched tracks, said a Canadian National Railway spokesman. None of the material in the tanks leaked, he said. The 100-car train was headed to Chicago from Dubuque, Iowa. Railway crossings and intersections at Burlington Road and Romke Road, Plank Road and Main Street, Plank Road and Engle Road, as well as Peplow Road and Ellithorpe Road were closed into the afternoon. Crews used a second engine to clear train cars from blocking crossings. All crossings were reopened about 4 p.m. The Burlington Fire Department and the Kane County Office of Emergency Management assisted the Kane County Sheriff's Office at the scene.

Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=346020>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *December 22, Reuters* – (Pennsylvania) **Exelon reduces Pa. Peach Bottom 2 reactor for work.** Exelon Corp reduced the 1,112-megawatt Unit 2 at the Peach Bottom nuclear power station in Pennsylvania to about half power by early Tuesday from full power early Monday, a spokeswoman for the plant said. Operators reduced the unit due to an instrumentation problem on an electrical bus. The spokeswoman could not say when the unit would likely return to full power, noting workers were troubleshooting and would make the necessary repairs.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2216114320091222?type=marketsNews>

7. *December 22, Deseret News* – (Utah) **Weather slows unloading of depleted uranium at EnergySolution.** Blustery weather in Utah's west desert Tuesday slowed the initial unloading of more than 5,400 barrels of depleted uranium slated for at least temporary

storage at EnergySolution's disposal facility. The long-term fate of 3,500 tons of radioactive material that rolled into Utah Sunday night from the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River nuclear materials processing center in South Carolina is in limbo, pending a safety survey of the waste disposal company's site 75 miles west of Salt Lake City. The Utah Division of Radiation Control director said state inspectors were at the disposal site Tuesday monitoring the off-loading process. A Utah Department of Environmental Quality scientist was at Clive on Tuesday and said snow and windy conditions slowed transferring the barrels from the covered train cars on the east side of the facility to flatbed trucks for transport to the west side. He said only four of the 52 rail cars, each of which holds 104 barrels, were unloaded by the end of the day. No issues were found in the initial inspection process or with the off-loading procedures, he said.

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705353472/Weather-slows-n-waste-unloading.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

8. *December 22, Autoblog* – (National) **Volvo recalls over 140K 2001-2005 and 2010 MY vehicles over fuel system issues.** Vehicles manufactured by Volvo are the subject of two different recalls newly announced by the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA). The recalls, both involving problems with fuel systems, cover more than 140,000 vehicles manufactured within the past decade. The first recall is directed at 136,100 2001-2005 model year S60, S80, V70, XC70, and XC90 vehicles sold and operated in warmer climates. According to NHTSA, the fuel pump can develop cracks in its flange when exposed to hot temperatures (and thermal cycling) combined with varying fuel quality. A compromised flange may leak fuel and/or result in a fire. Owners are instructed to bring their vehicles into the dealer for inspection. If the part is defective, Volvo will replace it with modified flange at no charge. The recall campaign is scheduled to begin in January 2010. The second recall is directed at 5,253 2010 model year XC60 vehicles. According to NHTSA, a fuel line rail cover designed to protect the fuel lines on the XC60 may be improperly attached, thus exposing the lines to damage. The damaged pieces may leak, possibly resulting in a fire. Owners of the affected models are asked to bring their vehicles to the dealer for inspection and/or a repair at no charge.

Source: <http://www.autoblog.com/2009/12/22/volvo-recalls-over-140k-2001-2005-and-2010-my-vehicles-over-fuel/>

For another story, see item [10](#)

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *December 22, ABC News* – (National) **Cyber security shortcomings at nuclear labs?** The Department of Energy (DOE), which is responsible for the nation's nuclear

weapons and nuclear energy, may jeopardize the security of its technology and lose millions of dollars if it does not improve its cyber security, according to a recent Inspector General's report. Delays by the DOE's Office of Science in enhancing cyber security and standardizing its computer protocols may leave the agency's sensitive information vulnerable and cost taxpayers upwards of \$3 million. DOE has been embarrassed by security lapses in the past, like a past illegal download of classified information at the Los Alamos nuclear lab, the use of unauthorized laptops at the Oak Ridge lab, and successful cyberattacks that may have originated in China.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/security-shortcomings-nuclear-labs/story?id=9394614>

10. *December 22, Metro West Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Fire evacuates Hopkinton manufacturer.** Metal shavings being collected in a large machine ignited on December 22 forcing the evacuation of a South Street manufacturing plant, the fire chief said. No one was injured in the 8:02 a.m. fire at Barry Controls at 82 South St. The one alarm fire spread smoke throughout the large plant, forcing the fire department to call for backup from Ashland and Milford, the chief said. The fire was contained mainly to the large machine, which is approximately 11 feet tall, four feet wide and four feet deep. The machine collects fine metal shavings, the chief said. The machine, which costs \$15,000, was destroyed.

Source: <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x664188993/Fire-evacuates-Hopkinton-manufacturer>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *December 23, SWVolusia News* – (Florida) **Attorney general sues three companies for loan modification scam.** The Florida Attorney General on December 23 announced he has filed a lawsuit against three businesses operating in Miami-Dade County, their principles and affiliated attorneys on allegations of deceptive and unfair trade practices regarding their involvement in a foreclosure rescue scam affecting homeowners nationwide. The Attorney General's Economic Crimes Division began investigating Kirkland Young LLC in July after receiving numerous consumer complaints against the company. During the course of the investigation, it was discovered that Attorney Aid LLC and ABK Consultants were affiliated with Kirkland Young LLC. The companies allegedly charged up-front fees for loan modification services and misrepresented to consumers that lenders required "qualifying payments" in order to qualify for modifications. The companies also charged "back end" fees upwards of \$1,299 for the first mortgage modification and approximately \$499 to \$699 for a second mortgage modification. To facilitate the collection of additional fees, consumers were required to set up escrow accounts with the attorneys affiliated with the companies, misleading consumers into believing they were retaining attorney representation for their loan modification. The funds fraudulently collected in the attorney escrow accounts were used for the benefit of all the defendants.

Source: <http://www.swvolusia.com/?p=4247>

12. *December 22, Gainesville Sun* – (Florida) **Starke Police: Man robs bank, leaves behind suspicious device.** A bank robber on December 22 left behind a device with protruding wires in Starke, and it was disposed of as if it were an explosive. Starke police said the robber walked into the Capital City Bank at 350 North Temple Ave. at 10:55 a.m. The man walked up to a teller window and demanded \$50 and \$100 bills. The man also told the teller not to say or do anything. When the teller opened the cash drawer, the man said he also wanted \$10 and \$20 bills. According to images captured by surveillance cameras, the man put the money into a black travel bag, then put the device on the counter and walked out. Witnesses said he was last seen walking south on Clark Street. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Bomb Squad was called in to look at the device, which later was determined not to have been a bomb, according to police. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement processed the crime scene, and the FBI sent an agent to assist Starke Police.

Source:

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091222/ARTICLES/912229944/1109/SPORTS?Title=Starke-police-Man-robs-bank-leaves-behind-suspicious-device->

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Transportation Sector

13. *December 23, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. plane overshoots Jamaica runway, dozens hurt.** An American Airlines Boeing 737 carrying more than 150 passengers and crew overshoot the runway while landing in torrential rain in Jamaica late on Tuesday, cracking open its fuselage and halting just short of the Caribbean sea, authorities and eyewitnesses said. The Jamaican information minister said none of the 145 passengers and six crew on board Flight AA 331 were killed, but 90 people were taken to local hospitals, where they were treated for broken bones, cuts, and bruises, as well as shock. An American Airlines spokeswoman said at least three people were kept at the hospitals for observation and treatment. Others were treated and released. "Upon impact, the aircraft hit an embankment when it overran the runway, so the landing gear and the engines detached from the aircraft, as they are designed to do. The left wing tip also broke away from the aircraft," she said. "The fuselage is intact, but there are cracks in two areas," she added.

Source:

<http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFTRE5BM0IX20091223?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

14. *December 22, Harvard Crimson* – (Massachusetts) **Red Line train derails.** A derailed Red Line train interrupted T service around 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, according to an alert from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Web site. The fourth car in a six-car train traveling outbound to Alewife slipped off the rails just south of the Alewife Station, according to the Boston Globe. Sixty-five T passengers were evacuated from the car and no injuries have been reported. The MBTA has replaced subway service between Alewife and Harvard with shuttle buses covering every stop between the two stations. In early November, an independent review of the MBTA's operations and management found significant water damage to the concrete slabs that hold the rails

between the Harvard and Alewife Stations. The report warned that trains traveling between these two stations were in danger of derailment. The T has suffered from a slew of recent service interruptions. Monday, there were delays at the Porter Square station while a wall panel was removed due to water leakage. Last week, a Green Line train derailed near Copley Square, resulting in no injuries but long delays.

Source: <http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2009/12/22/mbta-million-alewife-between/>

15. *December 22, Associated Press* – (New York) **Police called in to help with JFK terminal crowd.** Police say officers were called in to help with an unruly crowd for about an hour at the Delta Air Lines terminal at John F. Kennedy Airport. A Port Authority of New York and New Jersey spokesman says Delta asked the authority to send in officers Tuesday morning to help with crowd control, and the situation was resolved within an hour. When asked what happened at the terminal Tuesday, a Delta Airlines spokeswoman said a number of people whose flight to Haiti was canceled in Sunday's storm have been trying to get to Port-Au-Prince on standby but had not had any luck. She said they would all be placed on a new Wednesday flight that was added Tuesday. The spokesman said the decision to add a flight was not related to any disruption at the airport.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/12/22/general-us-nyc-airport-unruly-crowd_7232298.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *December 23, Ozarks First* – (Missouri) **Ammonia leak at plant forces evacuation.** Several employees of Farmland Foods in south Kansas City were treated at hospitals after an ammonia leak at the plant at 135th and Wyandotte Tuesday afternoon. One man suffered burns to his hands, face and arms when he tried to shut off the valve. At least seven workers were treated at hospitals with respiratory problems after being overcome by the fumes. About 250 employees were evacuated from the plant. Missouri Highway 150 between Wyandotte and State Line was temporarily closed as a precaution. Farmland Foods processes meat.

Source: <http://ozarksfirst.com/content/fulltext/?cid=219002>

17. *December 23, USA Today* – (National) **Safety of food at airports spotty.** Airport restaurants packed with holiday travelers have been cited in the past year for hundreds of food safety violations, local health department reports show. A USA Today review of inspection records for nearly 800 restaurants at 10 airports found items such as tuna

salad and turkey sandwiches stored at dangerously warm temperatures, raw meat contaminating ready-to-eat foods, rat droppings, and kitchens lacking soap for workers to wash hands. Serious violations, which can increase the risk of illness, are common. On the most recent inspections available online, 42 percent of 57 restaurants reviewed at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport had at least one “critical” violation. So did 77 percent of 35 restaurants reviewed at Reagan National Airport. Grab-and-go coolers often do not keep sandwiches and salads cold enough to stop dangerous pathogens, reports show. Inspectors found rat droppings or rodent issues at least 12 times from October 2008 through March at Atlanta’s airport. At JFK International Airport in New York City, at least 11 citations were issued for mice from October 2008 through August. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2009-12-23-airport-food-safety_N.htm

18. *December 23, Coshocton Tribune* – (Ohio) **Kraft Foods employee injured in early morning explosion.** One Kraft Foods employee was injured in an early morning explosion at the Coshocton plant on South Second Street. The 48-year-old man was transported to the Ohio State University Medical Center for treatment of unknown injuries, according to the Coshocton County Sheriff’s Office. No details on his condition are currently available. At 3:49 a.m. Wednesday, the sheriff’s office received the report of the explosion which was determined to be a smoker in the rear of the plant that had malfunctioned. Along with deputies, members of the Coshocton Fire Department and Coshocton County Emergency Medical Services responded.

Source:

<http://www.coshoctontribune.com/article/20091223/UPDATES01/91223007/Kraft-Foods-employee-injured-in-early-morning-explosion>

19. *December 22, Canton Reporter* – (Ohio) **Hazmat team contains ammonia leak at Fresh Mark plant.** City firefighters responded to an ammonia leak at the top of the Fresh Mark plant at about 5 p.m. Tuesday, and employees from the plant and the nearby Republic Engineered Products facility were evacuated as a precaution, a fire official said. The fire battalion chief said Fresh Mark’s hazardous materials team sealed the leak by 6:08 p.m., and that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency was notified. No one was hurt. Fresh Mark is a deli meat supplier.

Source: <http://www.cantonrep.com/business/x1107767663/Hazmat-team-contains-ammonia-leak-at-Fresh-Mark-plant>

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Water Sector

20. *December 22, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Wastewater spills into Irwin Creek.** About 47,000 gallons of wastewater that was not fully disinfected drained into Irwin Creek over the December 19 weekend, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities said Monday. An equipment malfunction at the Irwin Creek sewage treatment plant limited ultraviolet disinfection at the plant for seven minutes, a utility spokesman said. The incident occurred at 1:30 a.m. Saturday. Disinfection is the final step in the waste-treatment process. It reduces the bacteria, viruses and other pathogens in wastewater before it is discharged into a stream.

Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/breaking/story/1138536.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

21. *December 22, Reuters* – (National) **MedImmune recalling swine flu vaccine-FDA.**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said on Tuesday AstraZeneca's MedImmune unit is voluntarily recalling some of its H1N1 swine flu vaccine because it was not as potent as it should be. The director of the office of vaccines research and review at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said the recall involves a total of 4.7 million doses of the company's nasal spray vaccine, but only about 3,000 of those doses are left in warehouses. The rest of the doses were given out in October and November, when the vaccine was still at full potency, he told reporters on a conference call. The FDA said people who had already received the vaccine do not need another dose. The company is the second to recall H1N1 swine flu vaccine in the past month. Sanofi-Aventis SA on December 15 recalled 800,000 doses of its pediatric H1N1 swine flu vaccine because it is not as potent as it should be.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2213056920091223>

22. *December 22, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Texas: Samples to be destroyed.** State health authorities will destroy as many as five million blood samples taken from babies without parental consent and stored indefinitely for scientific research. The Texas Department of State Health Services said it would destroy the samples after settling a federal lawsuit filed by the Texas Civil Rights Project. The project, acting on behalf of five plaintiffs, had sued the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas A&M University System. The lawsuit alleged that the state's failure to ask parents for permission to store and possibly use the blood — originally collected to screen for birth defects — violated constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure. Under the settlement overseen by a federal court in San Antonio, the samples must be destroyed by early next year. The plaintiffs cited fears that their children's private health data could be misused.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/23/health/23brfs-SAMPLESTOBED_BRF.html

23. *December 22, WTVM 9 Columbus* – (Georgia) **Trash can near stove may have caused hospital fire.** Smoke filled the air above Columbus Regional Medical Center Monday morning from a fire that started in the kitchen. Firefighters reacted fast. They arrived on the scene within minutes. The hospital responded to code red, evacuating employees, visitors, and outpatients on the first floor as a precaution. "All the emergency equipment functioned as it should. The alarm notified the fire department, the smoke detectors worked, shut down all the ventilating systems limiting the area for smoke," said the senior vice president of Columbus Healthcare Systems. The deputy police chief said a gas line ruptured behind a cooking range, and combustible stored nearby may have caused the fire. No patients were evacuated, and no one was hurt.

Source: <http://www.wtvm.com/Global/story.asp?S=11713222>

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Government Facilities Sector

24. *December 23, Global Security Newswire* – (Kentucky) **Watchdog group accuses Bluegrass of lax CW oversight.** Leaks of chemical warfare materials at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky at times was not reported for weeks on at least one occasion, according to information posted online Tuesday by a watchdog organization. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility uploaded a number of documents received through a Freedom of Information Act request to the group's Web site. The documents were produced during a federal criminal investigation launched in December 2005 after some Blue Grass employees came forward with reports of oversight deficiencies at the installation, according to a PEER press release. The investigation ended in March of this year after federal authorities decided that criminal intent on the part of the depot managers could not be established. However, the watchdog group believes that the documents it obtained show a history of negligence at the depot.
Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20091222_8585.php
25. *December 22, WCSH 6 Portland* – (Maine) **Husson University tests emergency warning system.** People who live around Husson University in Bangor, Maine heard what the school's new outdoor emergency warning system sounds like on Tuesday. The message is blasted across campus from the roof of Peabody Hall. It starts with, "This is a campus emergency." Depending on what the emergency is, the message could be to evacuate the campus or inform students and staff what is happening. There is another message to let everyone in the area know the situation is clear. The system has several tones including a whoop, wail, siren, air horn, and chimes.
Source: <http://www.wesh6.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=112587&catid=2>
26. *December 22, Federal News Radio* – (National) **GSA, DHS issue RFI for next set of cyber tools.** The General Services Administration and the Homeland Security Department are looking for the next set of tools to secure agency computer networks. GSA issued a request for information through FedBizOpps.gov earlier this month asking industry to provide data on four different technologies that may become an enterprisewide software license under the SmartBuy program. The Request For Information (RFI) is for the Security Line of Business, which is run by DHS. Responses are due January 6, 2010. GSA asks vendors for information about four specific technologies: Web application firewall, endpoint protection platform, including anti-virus, security incident and event management, and data flow analysis. All of these fall under the Situational Awareness and Incident Response (SAIR) II capabilities. GSA awarded SAIR I capabilities in July. The contract included baseline configuration management, network mapping and discovery and vulnerability management tools. GSA states in the RFI that the SAIR II capabilities will be bought through a blanket purchase agreement.
Source: <http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=35&sid=1847207>
27. *December 21, Idaho Press-Tribune* – (Idaho) **Bomb threat reported at courthouse this morning; Building declared safe after search.** Officials say a bomb threat was called in to the Canyon County Courthouse at about 10:30 a.m. Monday. The Canyon

County Sheriff's Office and courthouse officials did a sweep of the entire building, searching for any kind of suspicious devices. By about 11:15 a.m., the courthouse was declared clear after nothing was found. Only some courthouse employees were told to evacuate the building. Although with past bomb threats the courthouse protocol was to evacuate the entire building, that policy was altered Monday for safety reasons, according to a Canyon County communications officer.

Source: <http://www.idahopress.com/?id=28671>

28. *December 21, Nextgov* – (National) **Commerce Department gets funds to combat cyber espionage.** Funds appropriated for the Commerce Department recently include \$10 million for an initiative to combat cyber espionage, including efforts by foreign criminals and enemy nations to hack into a computer system that tracks smuggling of weapons of mass destruction and other dangerous goods. The 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which the U.S. President signed into law December 16, includes more than \$100 million for Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security, which regulates the export of sensitive goods and technologies, and enforces export control regulations. The bureau's budget includes \$10 million for the Cyber Espionage Response Initiative, to fund an increase in cybersecurity personnel and security enhancements to computer systems that maintain sensitive data about international trade, including illegal export activities. In a fiscal 2010 budget estimate submitted for the president's review, BIS officials said the agency "requires extraordinary IT security measures due to its international trade data with a high security impact, and confirmation as a target by international actors engaging in broad federal level cyber espionage. The former requires data security exceeding even the requirements of personal privacy information; the latter requires [computer infrastructure] security over and above that provided by commercially available products."

Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20091221_5373.php?oref=topnews

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *December 23, Napa Valley Register* – (California) **A more direct line to 9-1-1.** Emergency callers now have a more direct line to first responders in Napa County, as 911 calls from cell phone users will be directed to local agencies for the first time. Up until about a week ago, when people using a cell phone dialed 911 from within Napa County, they would reach a California Highway Patrol dispatcher in Vallejo. That changed on December 16, when Napa Police Communications Center began accepting 911 calls from T-Mobile customers. In a prepared statement, the Napa Police Department said all major cell phone companies will be flipping the switch in the coming weeks.

Source:

<http://www.napavalleyregister.com/articles/2009/12/23/news/local/doc4b31a74ec062a102021784.txt>

30. *December 23, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **L.A. Fire Department blames budget cuts for delayed response times.** Critical minutes were lost in two recent emergency medical calls, including one in which a woman died, because nearby Los Angeles Fire Department engines had been taken out of service because of budget cuts, according to fire officials. In both cases, units from farther away responded to the calls. Since August, at least three people have died — including a 3-year-old boy and a 65-year-old woman — in incidents in which a closer fire truck had been shuttered because of cutbacks imposed by the Fire Department. Fire officials said there is no way to tell if the outcomes in those cases would have been different had the closer units been available, but they acknowledged that time is crucial during emergency responses. Each day, the department takes 15 fire engines and nine ambulances out of service on a rotating basis to help close a \$56.5-million budget shortfall. Other departments across the city have also been forced to slash their budgets in the face of a growing deficit.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-emergency-calls23-2009dec23,0,6396208.story>

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Information Technology

31. *December 23, The Register* – (International) **Hackers break Amazon's Kindle DRM.** An Israeli hacker says he has broken copyright protections built in to Amazon's Kindle for PC, a feat that allows ebooks stored on the application to work with other devices. The hack began as an open challenge in a forum for participants to come up with a way to make ebooks published in Amazon's proprietary format display on competing readers. Eight days later, a user going by the handle Labba had a working program that did just that. The hack is the latest to show the futility of digital rights management schemes, which more often than not inconvenience paying customers more than they prevent unauthorized copying. However, most vendors do not give up quickly in the reverse-engineering arms race. Apple regularly issues iPhone updates to thwart users who have the audacity to jailbreak the devices they own. Texas Instruments has also been known to take action against customers who reverse engineer calculators. Amazon representatives have yet to indicate how they plan to respond. Queries put to a spokesman on December 22 were not immediately returned.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/23/amazon_kindle_hacked/
32. *December 23, PC Magazine* – (International) **RIM pins outage on BlackBerry messenger update.** A flaw in two recently released versions of BlackBerry Messenger appears to be the cause of Tuesday night's BlackBerry e-mail outage, Research in Motion said in a December 23 statement. "Root cause is currently under review, but based on preliminary analysis, it currently appears that the issue stemmed from a flaw in two recently released versions of BlackBerry Messenger (versions 5.0.0.55 and 5.0.0.56) that caused an unanticipated database issue within the BlackBerry infrastructure," according to RIM. "RIM has taken corrective action to restore service." RIM released a new version of BlackBerry Messenger (version 5.0.0.57) and encouraged any user who upgraded their Messenger since December 14 to download the latest version. "RIM continues to monitor its systems to maintain normal service levels and apologizes for

any inconvenience to customers,” the company said. Late Tuesday night, RIM confirmed that its BlackBerry service had suffered its second e-mail outage in five days. Users were unable to receive messages or chat via BlackBerry Messenger, though calling and texting functions were unaffected.

Source: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2357519,00.asp>

33. *December 22, Network World* – (National) **Obama cyber czar pick looks to secure smartphones, social nets.** In choosing the new cybersecurity czar, the U.S. President has someone who has held a similar job in a previous administration, has varied experience at high-level corporate jobs, was a frequent panelist at security conferences and who has even written a book on defending the Internet. The new cybersecurity czar served under a former U.S. President for three years, ultimately resigning after producing the “National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace.” Because of his high profile past as CSO of Microsoft and CISO of eBay, during which he spoke often at public forums, there is a broad record of his thoughts on network security, from smartphone threats to equating cyber security to physical security. The new cybersecurity coordinator favors government promotion of education, research and prodding vendors to produce more secure products that will work their way into everyday use.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9142595/Obama_cyber_czar_pick_looks_to_secure_smartphones_social_nets

34. *December 22, The Register* – (International) **Serious Web vuln found in 8 million Flash files.** A security researcher has identified more than 8 million Adobe Flash files that make the Web sites hosting them vulnerable to attacks that target visitors with malicious code. The Flash files are contained on a wide variety of sites operated by online casinos, news organizations, banks, and professional sports teams. They make the pages where they reside susceptible to XSS, or cross-site scripting, attacks that have the potential to inject malicious code and content into a visitor’s browser and in some cases steal credentials used to authenticate user accounts. The researcher, who goes by the moniker MustLive, said the Flash files contain poorly written ActionScript used to count the number of times a banner has been clicked and typically contain the clickTAG or url parameters. Google searches identified a total more than 8.3 million of them on sites hosted by the New York Giants football team, Praguepost.com and ParadaisPoker.com. Because Google results are often abbreviated, the actual number is probably higher. MustLive said Web sites that host the buggy content are not automatically vulnerable to XSS exploits. Indeed, even though the pages on the official Citibank Web site included such content, XSS attacks that tried to exploit them failed.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/22/mass_flash_file_vulnerability/

35. *December 22, Softpedia* – (International) **Intel Web site compromised through SQL injection.** A hacker has discovered an SQL injection flaw in a Web site owned by Intel. According to the attacker, the vulnerability can be exploited to access sensitive information, including credit card details, stored in the underlying database. The proof of concept attack was demoed by a prominent self-confessed white hat hacker going by the online handle of Unu. The Romanian security enthusiast specializes in finding SQL

injection vulnerabilities in high profile Web sites. His latest public disclosures involved Web sites owned by Kaspersky, Symantec or the Wall Street Journal. According to Unu, the flaw is located in the Intel Channel Webinars Web site, which is part of the company's Channel Partner Program. The database server is MySQL, and the hacker notes that one of the MySQL users has the percent symbol in its host field. This means that if the password is decrypted, which is fairly easy to do, an attacker can use it to access the server from any IP address. Further inspection of the database reveals that passwords for the Web site's administrative accounts are stored in plain text, which is a major security oversight. Additionally, the load_file MySQL function is allowed. Under certain conditions, this function can be abused to upload a PHP shell and completely compromise the server.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Intel-Website-Compromised-Through-SQL-Injection-130494.shtml>

36. *December 21, eWeek* – (International) **MP3 spam makes a comeback.** MP3 spam is making a bit of a comeback. According to security pros, spammers have returned to an old style in a spate of new attacks. Symantec has been tracking a campaign involving a small .mp3 file promoting a meds domain attached in the e-mail messages. The messages have no subject line or message body — tipoff that should make them immediately suspect. The file itself is a five-second message recorded in a female voice and is heavily distorted with background noise. Some of the random filenames used include: milsoppy.mp3, enwomb.mp3 and realiser.mp3. According to Symantec, the domain name described in the file is a recently registered domain in China. “Our analysis shows that the majority of these spam messages originated from Europe (81.5%), followed by South America (8.3%). Asia and North America each contributed just over 3%,” blogged a researcher at Symantec. “Old trends never die, they just resurface from time to time. Case in point, spammed messages that have .MP3 file attachments, which were last seen two years ago, made their presence felt once again today.” Researchers at Trend Micro reported another MP3 spam campaign pushing Viagra and other sexual enhancement pills. The voice in the message urges users to visit a Web page that points to Canadian pharmacy sites. Sophos also reported seeing the campaign as well. According to Symantec, the spam involved in the Canadian pharmacy scheme originates from the “Cimbot” botnet, which is estimated to be between 10,000 and 20,000 bots in size.

Source: http://securitywatch.eweek.com/spam/mp3_spam_makes_a_comeback.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

37. *December 22, Suffolk News-Herald* – (Virginia) **Fire knocks out phone service.** A fire at the Verizon substation on Church Street in Windsor, Virginia knocked out telephone service in parts of Isle of Wight, Franklin, Southampton, and Suffolk Tuesday morning. A falling power line likely caused the fire, which is still under investigation. At about 6:50 a.m., a power line fell and came into contact with a Verizon telephone line, according to a Dominion Virginia Power spokesman. He said about 900 Dominion customers lost power as a result, but all power was restored within three hours. A spokeswoman for Verizon said about 1,600 of the company's customers lost telephone service. However, service was restored by Tuesday afternoon to most customers, except for sections of southern Isle of Wight and Southampton County. The Isle of Wight County's director of emergency services said the county's 911 system is "functional," but residents in the Windsor and Zuni areas who are without landline service can dial 911 from cell phones or visit their local fire, rescue or police station for assistance. Source: <http://www.suffolknewsherald.com/news/2009/dec/22/fire-knocks-out-phone-service/>

For more stories, see items [29](#) and [32](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

38. *December 22, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Man arrested for bomb threat against Gateway mall.** Police have jailed a man who they say called in a bomb threat after a customer service dispute with The Gateway mall in Salt Lake City, Utah. Salt Lake City police detectives say the 30-year-old man called Gateway security Friday afternoon and told them a bomb inside a vehicle in the parking structure would go off in 30 minutes. They say he called in the threat after he felt a customer service representative he had just talked to by phone was not nice enough to him. Detectives traced the call back to man's workplace in Murray. They found him still at his desk with the Gateway numbers he had allegedly called still displayed on his desk phone. He was arrested for investigation of making terrorist threats. Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=9115387>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

39. *December 23, Cleveland News-Leader* – (Ohio) **National Park closes three Carriage Trail bridges.** Citing safety issues, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park announced December 14 that it has closed the three 20-year-old bridges along the Old Carriage Trail in the township. The closure will be for an indefinite period of time, according to a press release. The winding 3.5-mile trail connects at both ends to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail between Route 82 and Highland Road. The National Park Service says it will conduct a detailed engineering analysis in January to determine the next course of action. In the meantime, the park service says it is attempting to work out detours. During routine maintenance in 2003, a large amount of rust was seen on the

bridges, resulting in stepped up maintenance and inspections. The park service requested an inspection by the Federal Highway Administration in 2008, resulting in the park service closing the bridges to maintenance vehicles. After a follow-up inspection in November 2009, the highway administration noted increased deterioration and recommended the bridges be closed to pedestrians.

Source: <http://www.the-news-leader.com/news/article/4734232>

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Dams Sector

40. *December 23, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Officials wonder what to do with Coon Rapids Dam.** The Coon Rapids Dam on the Mississippi River has a new failure in its concrete apron — a problem that is not yet a safety concern but could cost millions to repair, a Three Rivers Park District inspection shows. Repairing the cracked area with steel pilings could cost \$1.5 million to \$2 million, and reinforcing the entire apron could cost \$6 million or more, a spokesman of Stanley Consultants advised the park board. Three Rivers officials are scheduled to discuss the problem with the Department of Natural Resources on January 6 and with park board members later in the month. The apron, an underwater layer of concrete, takes the pounding of the river water spilling over the dam and prevents scouring that could undermine the dam structure. Scuba divers inspecting the dam found a section of apron had broken up “and large pieces were lying on the bottom,” the spokesman said.

Source:

http://www.startribune.com/local/north/79955407.html?elr=KArks:DCiUHc3E7_V_nD_aycUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aULPQL7PQLanchO7DiUr

41. *December 23, Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* – (Ohio) **With dam breach deal, Brentwood’s losing its lake.** A dam at Brentwood Lake in Carlisle Township, Ohio, that state officials have warned was “in danger of catastrophic failure” will be breached by February 1, according to the terms of a settlement reached Tuesday. Spitzer Hardware & Supply Co., which owns the lake, will share the cost of the \$60,000 to \$70,000 project with the township and the county. Spitzer, a division of Spitzer Management, will pay for engineering and other costs, while the county and township will provide much of the manpower and equipment needed for the project. Spitzer’s attorney said the earthen dam will be slowly breached and the water allowed to return to being the stream it was before the dam was built and the lake created in the 1950s while the Brentwood subdivision was being constructed. Residents and officials from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) have long had concerns about the safety of the dam, but Spitzer has argued that because the lake was used by Brentwood residents it was actually the property of the Brentwood Lake Village Homeowners Association. Residents had pushed Spitzer to shore up the dam for years. The attorney for the association said his clients — many of whom waited in the courthouse while the attorneys hammered out the settlement — would have preferred the lake to remain. ODNR also has pushed Spitzer to repair the dam, but in June the state agency ordered the dam breached because it was in danger of “imminent failure.” The assistant Lorain County prosecutor said if the dam had failed, it would have sent water from the lake —

10 feet at its deepest — rushing out into the township. At least two homes and other property would be in jeopardy of flooding.

Source: <http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2009/12/23/with-dam-breach-deal-brentwoods-losing-its-lake/>

42. *December 22, New Scientist* – (International) **Dams linked to more extreme weather.** An analysis of more than 600 dams suggested that the creation of a reservoir could cause larger storms and increase flooding. The idea that large bodies of water might influence rainfall is not new. But until now, no one had studied the effect of large dams and their reservoirs. The research team from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville and colleagues looked at the magnitude of the biggest storms near 633 of the world's largest dams before and after construction. They found that in many places the level of precipitation in the most extreme rainfall events grew by an average of 4 percent per year after a dam was built, with the relationship especially strong in semi-arid regions. There was also an increase in the frequency of rainy days. The paper is the first to show a clear relationship between dams and heavy rainfall, says a professor at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Though the results were not consistent all over the world, that is to be expected, he says, since regional weather patterns and numerous other factors come into play. To explore these effects, the research team plans to use computer models to simulate dams in different scenarios. "Hopefully it will make the picture less blurry," he says.

Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20427394.200-dams-linked-to-more-extreme-weather.html><http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20427394.200-dams-linked-to-more-extreme-weather.html>

43. *December 22, Water Technology Online* – (National) **EPA to announce first-ever federal coal ash storage standards.** In response to last year's coal ash spill at the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Kingston Fossil Plant, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) soon will announce the first federal standards for the storage of coal ash from coal-fired power plants, according to the Knoxville News Sentinel. One year ago Tuesday, 5.4 million cubic yards of muddy coal ash spilled from a storage facility, contaminating the Emory River and wreaking havoc on nearby homes. An attorney for Earthjustice said, "The TVA spill absolutely focused the nation's attention on the dangers of coal ash, not only its disposal in high-hazard dams, but its disposal anywhere where it can harm human health and the environment." Shortly after the disaster last December, congressional hearings were held to enact federal regulations for coal ash storage facilities. And in September, the EPA announced its decision to revise existing standards for water discharges from coal-fired power plants. The U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee plans to hold a comprehensive oversight hearing on TVA in the coming months.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=73165

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